

Attorney Docket No. 233-569-USP

REMARKS

This communication is considered fully responsive to the first Office action mailed March 23, 2005. Claims 1-20 were examined. Claims 19 and 20 are allowed. Claims 1-2 and 9-13 stand rejected. The Office has indicated that claims 2-8 and 14-18 would be allowable if amended to depend from an allowable independent claim.

Claims 1 and 9-12 are cancelled herein. No claims are added. Claims 2, 3, 6, 13, 14, 17, and 18 are amended. Reconsideration and reexamination is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,706,436 to Lewis et al. ("Lewis"). Claim 1 has been canceled. Claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 6, which the Office has deemed allowable. Therefore, claim 2 is also believed to be allowable.

Claims 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,867,483 to Ennis, Jr. et al. ("Ennis"). Claims 9 and 10 are canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being purportedly unpatentable over Ennis in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0161755 by Moriarty. Claim 10 is canceled.

Claim 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being purportedly unpatentable over Lewis in view of Ennis. Claim 12 has been canceled. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 14, which the Office has deemed allowable. Therefore, claim 13 is also believed to be allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 19 and 20 and further acknowledges the objections to allowable claims 2-8 and 14-18, which have been amended herein into independent form or to depend from an allowable independent claim to overcome the objections.

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Furthermore, the Applicant acknowledges the Office's statement of reasons for allowance. The Applicant agrees with the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance to the extent that they indicate that the allowed and allowable claims are patentable over the references in the record.

However, the Applicant expressly traverses the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance to the extent that any comment is intended to or has the effect of limiting a claim scope, explicitly or implicitly, by not reciting verbatim the respective claim language, or is intended to or has the effect of limiting a claim scope by stating or implying that all the reasons for patentability are in any way fully enumerated. The Applicant specifically does not acquiesce or agree in any manner as to any assertion in Examiner's comments that may be interpreted to narrow the claims to less than their recited scope.

The Applicant further points out that the reasons for allowance set forth by the Examiner are not the only reasons that claims are allowable. Further reasons for allowance of the claims beyond those enumerated by the Examiner herein are described and set forth in the Applicant's specification. In addition, structures and methods that perform substantially the same function in substantially the same way to achieve substantially the same results are included within the scope of the claims.

Finally, as the Examiner's reasons for allowance are not exhaustive, such reasons for allowance do not establish an estoppel against Applicant seeking and obtaining allowance of additional, broader claims in a continuation application, which Applicant reserves the right to file.

By virtue of the Examiner's allowance of the claims over the cited references and the associated arguments, it is believed that all arguments made by the Examiner have been overcome.

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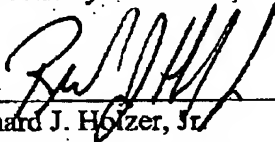
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Conclusion

Based on the amendments and remarks herein, the Applicant respectfully requests prompt issuance of a notice of allowance for claims 2-8 and 13-20 in this matter.

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Respectfully submitted,



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